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STATINTL

CIA Agrees to Help in Jewel Theft Probe

CPYRGHT By CLARK MOLLENHOFF 3 Aug 66
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WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) reported Tuesday it was "co-operating fully" with police in connection with the theft of \$20,000 in jewels from the home of Hans V. Tofte, a high-ranking CIA official.

The CIA said Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Slocum, CIA employees, and Charles D. Speake, a security representative of CIA, were in the Tofte home in the period when it is alleged that the \$20,000 in diamonds and sapphires were stolen.

Tofte and Mrs. Tofte in statements to the police have said they found certain CIA papers, some "manuscripts" that were Tofte's personal property and the jewels were missing between Saturday morning July 23 and Sunday evening, July 24.

NEITHER Tofte nor Mrs. Tofte were present when Mr. and Mrs. Slocum and Speake were in the home, but Mrs. Charlotte Leister, mother-in-law of Tofte, was there with two poodles.

Mrs. Marlys Tofte, formerly of Anoka, said yesterday the jewels and the official CIA papers that Tofte brought to the house for home work were in a third-floor library and away from the area where guests were invited.

She said they regarded the home and Mrs. Leister safe because the two dogs barked loudly and angrily if anyone approached the house or tried to enter unless calmed by the Toftes or by Mrs. Leister.

THE CIA contends the Slocums were looking for a house, and did not know

with the CIA at the time of the Saturday visit.

"During the course of the visit, Slocum noticed by chance classified agency material in one of the rooms being shown and reported this promptly to agency security officials," the CIA said yesterday in explaining the reason for the return visit on Sunday.

"Since the presence of exposed classified documents in a private home constitutes a violation of agency security regulations, Mr. and Mrs. Slocum and Speake returned to the residence on Sunday, July 24," the CIA stated.

"THEY WERE admitted by Tofte's mother-in-law and took custody of the classified material," the CIA said.

Mrs. Tofte told police the classified material was in the third-floor room, out of the way of normal house traffic, and was wrapped in such a manner that it would have been necessary for any intruder to have unwrapped it to have known what it was.

In addition, she said Mrs. Leister did not show the third floor to the Slocums and the real estate man on Saturday, and on Sunday had no knowledge that the three CIA employees had gone to the top floor and had removed the CIA papers in addition to other "personal papers and property."